

# FOCUS

## Missouri

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February 3, 2006

### HEADLINE NEWS

#### Blunt Pledges \$2 Million for Life Science Incubator at MU



As part of his bold Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, Gov. Matt Blunt was at the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus on Thursday to pledge \$2 million to the university for a new Missouri Life Science Incubator. The facility will be a key development in helping researchers move their science from the laboratory to commercial businesses.

Through the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative, Blunt has also proposed that the state provide assistance to help our institutions bring technologies into the global market through the Missouri Discovery Alliance. The Alliance will be designed to maximize the economic impact of science and technology in Missouri by attracting and retaining life science companies and to help develop commercial applications for research. *Photo by MU Publications and Alumni Communications Office.* [Read more...](#)

#### Advisory Council Designs Roadmap for Plant Biotechnology



Gov. Matt Blunt met with members of the Missouri Governor's Advisory Council for Plant Biotechnology late last week to outline short, mid and long term goals designed to accelerate growth in Missouri's plant biotechnology industry. The council discussed life science initiatives underway across the state; outlined goals for enhancing plant science research and commercialization; reviewed legislative proposals and ideas, such as the governor's newly proposed Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative; and explored potential funding sources for new commercial ventures. [Read more...](#)

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[MEDC Winter Conference](#)

**February 16, 2006**

[Canada - U.S. Life Sciences Linkages](#)

**March 7 - 9, 2006**

[Monterrey, Mexico Expo Manufactura](#)

**March 17 - 28, 2006**

[Governor's Trade Mission to Europe](#)

**April 9 - 12, 2006**

[BIO 2006](#)

**April 23 - 26, 2006**

[Philadelphia CoreNet](#)

**April 30 - May 3, 2006**

[National Business Incubation Association's 20th International Conference on Business Incubation](#)

## **Bond, Talent Congratulate Boeing Workers on F-15 Sale to Singapore**

This U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent joined hundreds of workers at Boeing last week to congratulate them on the recent sale of 12 St. Louis-built F-15s to Singapore. This sale, estimated at \$1 billion, ensures the F-15 line will be operational through 2010, protecting the 1800 jobs that depend on the plane. Earlier this year, the Missouri senators helped secure \$65 million for F-15 procurement in the FY06 Defense Appropriations bill. These funds supplement the \$110 million Bond secured in last year's defense appropriations bill, bringing the total amount available for F-15 production to \$175 million. [Read more....](#)



## **Women-Owned Businesses in Missouri Concentrated in Retail and Services**



Approximately half of the more than 120,000 women-owned businesses in Missouri are in the Retail Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Other Services industries, according to recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners. [Read more...](#)

## **Landing a New Job in the New Year: Resume Tips**

Job hunting can be challenging and your resume may be a potential employer's first and only impression of you. Whether you're writing your resume for the first time or polishing it up for a career change, here is a list of useful resume tips from MERIC and the Division of Workforce Development's forthcoming *2006-07 Missouri Career Guide*. [Read more...](#)



### **Green County Receives Affordable Housing Grant**

DED approved a \$200,000 housing infrastructure grant through the Community Development Block Grant program on behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Springfield for its Legacy Trails project. The funds will be used to construct public infrastructure needed to support dozens of new affordable housing units on an 18-acre tract of vacant farmland north of

### **Call Center Tests Joplin's Labor Market**

More than 550 people attended an informational open house hosted by Kansas City-based Lock/line at the Missouri Career Center in Joplin last week. The company is assessing interest from local job-seekers to help determine whether it will build a new customer service center in southwest Missouri. If the insurance and warranty programs administrator

### **Ozark Laser Systems Launches Spin-off Company**

Ozark Laser Systems spun off a new company, U.S. Photonics Inc., at the nation's largest nanotechnology and photonics trade show in California last week. The company's owner, Ryan Sweerink, is hoping to capitalize on opportunities in medical device manufacturing and defense contract work. He also may locate the new company in

## **ARCHIVED REPORTS**

[Missouri Metro Areas See Job Increases; Unemployment Falls In Most Other Areas](#)

[Steinhoff Pleased by Blunt's Pledge to Build on Missouri's Economic Successes](#)

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## **QUICK LINKS**

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Springfield. [Read more...](#)

### **MBCH Children and Family Ministries Receives Tax Credits**

DED approved up to \$250,000 for MBCH Children and Family Ministries in Bridgeton through the Youth Opportunities Program. MBCH Children and Family Ministries is expected to leverage up to \$500,000 in local contributions to help fund residential based services, such as counseling and conflict resolution, for approximately 250 youth at three campuses. [Read more...](#)

### **State Grants Fund Sewer Systems in Two Rural Areas**

DED recently approved two Community Development Block Grants totaling over half a million dollars. The grants will help fund construction of public wastewater systems in the village of Cosby, in southern Andrew County, and in the Holiday Shores area of Washington County. [Read more...](#)

chooses to locate in Joplin, it would create between 400 to 500 new jobs. [Read more...](#)

### **Law Firms Hike Pay**

Law firms across the nation are raising their wages to attract talented young lawyers. In big markets like New York and Washington, lawyers just starting their careers are receiving as much as \$135,000 a year, while those in smaller markets are making around \$115,000 a year. [Read more...](#)

### **State to Aid Employees at Former May Co. Headquarters**

The Rapid Response Team will help approximately 850 employees who will be affected by upcoming layoffs at the former May Department Stores Company corporate office in St. Louis. May was acquired in August 2005 by Federated Department Stores, Inc. Federated will begin laying off these workers March 1. For more information, go online at [Rapid Response](#) or call DWD at 1-800-877-8698. [Read more...](#)

the Jordan Valley Innovation Center. [Read more...](#)

### **Isle of Capri HQ Coming to St. Louis**

Isle of Capri Casino Inc. has officially announced its plans to relocate its headquarters and 150 corporate jobs from Biloxi, Miss. to Creve Coeur. The company will lease 48,000 square feet for office space and another 5,000 square feet of storage space at the Creve Coeur Corporate Center. The relocation process will begin this summer. The St. Louis RCGA estimates the new headquarters will generate \$36.8 million per year for the St. Louis region's economy. [Read more...](#)

### **HOK Receives Top Architecture Ranking**

St. Louis-based Hellmuth Obata + Kassabaum recently gained the No. 1 ranking in *Business Design Magazine's* World Architecture Top 200. An increase in the number of employees and a reported \$98 million in international sales for 2004 helped push HOK to the top of the rankings. [Read more...](#)

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[missourifocus@ded.mo.gov](mailto:missourifocus@ded.mo.gov)

### Canada - U.S. Life Sciences Linkages



The Canadian Consulate General and its St. Louis partners will host leading Canadian executives and researchers in the lifesciences sector at a seminar to discuss "Canada - U.S. Life Sciences Linkages" from 5 - 7:30 p.m., Feb. 16, at the St. Louis RCGA, Ste. 1300, One Metropolitan Square. Dr. Arthur

Carty, National Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of

Canada, will give opening remarks. Panelists include the presidents of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council and key researchers from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the National Research Council's Plant Biotechnology Institute. The public is invited to attend and may participate in a moderated question and answer session and network with Canadian representatives at a reception following the seminar. RSVP to Laura Flamm at (312) 327-3632 or [laura.flamm@international.gc.ca](mailto:laura.flamm@international.gc.ca) by Thursday, Feb. 9.

### Maryland Plans \$20 Million Bio Investment

Gov. Robert Ehrlich is adding emphasis to his administration's science and technology initiatives with a new plan to spend an additional \$20 million over a three-year period to bring biotechnology companies to East Baltimore. City and state officials are hoping the funding for the East Baltimore biotechnology project will bring 6,000 jobs to the distressed area. The governor also asked Johns Hopkins researchers and officials to support his plan for a \$20 million stem cell research fund.



[Read more...](#)

### BNSF Railway Co. Announces \$2.4 Billion Capital Investment Plan



Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Co. has announced a \$2.4 billion capital improvements program, a 10% increase over what the company spent on improvements in 2005. BNSF plans to spend \$400 million on track and facilities improvements, \$1.4 billion on infrastructure and equipment maintenance and

improvements and implementing new technologies, and \$550 million for the purchase of 310 locomotives. [Read more...](#)

### Ford Announces Development of Electric-Ethanol Hybrid Vehicle

Ford Motor Co. is expanding its hybrid line with the Ford Escape Hybrid E85, a vehicle that combines hybrid electric power and ethanol capability. Ford already produces two full hybrid electric vehicle models at its Claycomo facility in the Kansas City area. Other Ford hybrids scheduled to be released in the next few years include the Mazda Tribute Hybrid in 2007 and the Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan in 2008. [Read more...](#)



# FOCUS

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February 10, 2006

### HEADLINE NEWS

#### Missouri, Kansas Officials to Create Bi-State Life Sciences Corridor



Gov. Matt Blunt, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and other state, corporate and economic development officials met for a regional growth summit at the Sprint Nextel campus in Overland Park last week to encourage bi-state cooperation in the future growth of the greater Kansas City area.

The two governors pledged to work together toward several initiatives, particularly in the quest to further develop the region as a life sciences hub by creating a life sciences corridor between Columbia and Manhattan running through Kansas City. Other bi-state cooperation initiatives signed were aimed at refraining from using state economic development incentives to attract companies across borders, marketing the area as a whole, creating a higher education enterprise, supporting opportunities to make the region a center for animal health, improving regional public transit, and supporting work force preparation and training. [Read more...](#)

#### Missouri Women's Council Launches New, Improved Web Site



The Missouri Women's Council has a newly designed web page that places an attractive new face on the site that connects Missouri women to a host of helpful business, employment and everyday living resources.

The site, [www.womenscouncil.org](http://www.womenscouncil.org), gives women easy access to a wealth of online resources that focus on women in business, starting a business, obtaining state contracts, finding a great job, updating skills and strategies for working from home. It also serves as a gateway to the comprehensive Self-Sufficiency Standard, the Women's Resource Guide, information about famous women in Missouri's history, the application for Missouri's special Breast Cancer Awareness License Plate, and much more. [Read more...](#)

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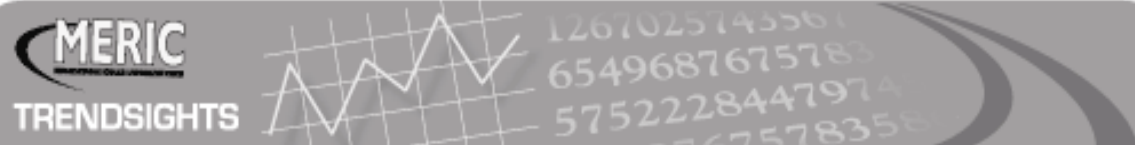
[National Business Incubation Association's 20th International Conference on Business Incubation](#)

**ARCHIVED REPORTS**

## General Revenue Continues to Climb in January



Net general revenue collections continued growing in January, increasing 4.3 percent from \$604.4 million in January 2005 to \$630.5 million this January. Corporate income and corporate franchise tax collection continued to be strong, increasing 20.4 percent over the month and more than 41 percent year-to-date. [Read more...](#)



## MoDOT Partners with MERIC



MERIC and the Department of Economic Development have teamed up with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to analyze the impact highway projects have on the state's economy. Reports on the proposed Mississippi River

Bridge and MoDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) are already available. [Read more...](#)

## Profiling Missouri Communities: Jefferson City

Jefferson City is Missouri's 15th largest city and the state's newest metropolitan statistical area. Cole County's population is projected to increase 8.5% by 2025, slightly slower than the 9.2% projected growth for the state. [Read more...](#)



## Tax Credits for Boys & Girls Club of Poplar Bluff

The Department of Economic Development has approved up to \$41,520 for the Boys & Girls Club of Poplar Bluff through the Youth Opportunities Program. The not-for-profit organization is expected to leverage up to \$83,040 in local contributions to help fund its after school program, which provides a wide variety of activities for youth between the ages of six and 18. Private donors to this project will receive a 50 percent tax credit for their contribution. [Read](#)

## Talent Secures \$15 Million for OneKC WIRED Initiative

U.S. Sen. Jim Talent has delivered \$15 million for Kansas City jobs and economic development as part of a major new initiative called OneKC WIRED. The Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development initiative will help prepare workers in the 18 county, bi-state area for high growth industries, such as health care, biotechnology and manufacturing. [Read more...](#)

## Kids Learn Technology Skills at Missouri Summer Camp

There's a new and fun way to help your child become tech savvy and grasp technology skills that will make him or her more competitive in the future job market. Washington University in St. Louis has joined 40 prestigious universities across the U.S. to now offer one of two new iD Tech Camps ([www.internalDrive.com](http://www.internalDrive.com)) for children ages seven to 17. During the week-long camp, children can bring their creativity to a new level by learning technology skills, from

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[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General](#)

[more...](#)

### **Foundation Seeks Funding for Community Development Activities**

The Nevada-Vernon County Area Chamber of Commerce has recently formed the Nevada-Vernon County P.R.I.D.E. Foundation to help local organizations, like the chamber, the city of Nevada and Main Street Nevada, gain access to funds that are available locally, as well as provide a way to get grants from other sources. [Read more...](#)

### **Branson West Receives \$1.35M Grant**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources awarded a \$1.35 million grant to the city of Branson West through State Water Pollution Bond Funds and a capitalization grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant will help improve the wastewater treatment plant in preparation for increased service demand when Indian Ridge Resort opens in 2011. The system will also help maintain the clarity and health of local streams and Table Rock Lake. [Read more...](#)

### **State Seeks Skilled Workforce Initiative Applications**

Through the new Skilled Workforce Initiative, the DWD is making available \$8 million to Missouri's workforce regions to better prepare current and future workers to meet critical skill demands. These discretionary funds will help support Workforce Investment Boards in seven priority areas: business retention, low-income individuals, incumbent workers, micro enterprises, one-stop career centers, skills gap and youth. The application deadline is March 31. [Read more...](#)

### **DWD featured on Missouri Economy Today**

The DWD was featured for a second consecutive time on the *Missouri Economy Today* show, aired on the state's public access network. January's segment featured how the division assisted Hurricane Katrina evacuees in finding employment. February's segment featured Missouri Career Center staff using labor market information to help job seekers build skills that are in demand in their local area.

digital movie production to video game creation to early programming. [Read more...](#)

### **LifeLine Foods to Develop Ethanol Facility**

LifeLine Foods announced its plan last week to invest \$60 million to develop an ethanol production facility in St. Joseph. The 35-job project will produce more than 40 million gallons of ethanol annually when fully operational. Construction is expected to begin this spring. [Read more...](#)

### **DaimlerChrysler Expansion Attracts Suppliers to St. Louis Area**

On the heels of DaimlerChrysler's announced \$1 billion investment in its Fenton plants, Kelsey-Hayes has signed a letter of intent with Summit Development Corp. to lease space at the Corporate 44 Business Park. The designer and manufacturer of braking systems is expected to create 100 jobs and will supply DaimlerChrysler with automotive parts. [Read more...](#)

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### MU Opens Door for Missouri Environmental Technology Companies in China



The University of Missouri-Columbia will use a \$287,000 federal grant to fund an office and staff in Beijing China aimed at opening up business opportunities for Missouri-based environmental technology companies in China. Tom Clevenger, the engineer who will direct the project, said seminars and training sessions in both countries "will provide a unique opportunity for U.S. environmental technology to be presented to key Chinese decision makers." [Read more...](#)

### Iowa State University Engages in Economic Development

John Brighton became Iowa State University's vice provost for research last September. His new position also encompasses a leadership position in economic development, involving him in the state's Innovation Iowa outreach program, which will showcase ISU's economic development research services to the citizens of Iowa. Brighton says his mission is to assist people with research for start up companies and help them grow, make a profit and employ more people. [Read more...](#)



### Gov. Bush Proposes \$630 Million Economic Development Funding



In Gov. Jeb Bush's 2006-07 fiscal budget, he has proposed \$630 million to diversify Florida's economy. His budget recommendation includes monies or tax credits to attract researchers and fund infrastructure, secure the state's leadership position in the space and aeronautics industry, support commercialization efforts through Centers of Excellence, attract venture capital, and offer financial incentives to attract businesses among other initiatives. [Read more...](#)

# FOCUS

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February 17, 2006

### HEADLINE NEWS

#### **Bolivar Firm First to Receive Quality Jobs Benefits**



Duck Creek Technologies, Inc. of Bolivar will create more than 60 new jobs over the next five years that pay above average county wages, making it the first firm to receive benefits under the Missouri Quality Jobs Act passed during the last legislative session and championed by Gov. Matt Blunt. The company is entitled to 6 percent of the new payroll in the form of retained withholding taxes and tax credits for a period of five years under the technology business project portion of Missouri Quality Jobs.

Founded in 2000, Duck Creek Technologies enables insurance carriers and other participants in the insurance distribution process to define and develop rating, underwriting, and policy processing services for any line of business and to deploy those services to the Web and to all other points on the product value chain. The company was recently named to *Inc. Magazine's* list of America's fastest growing privately held companies. [Read more...](#)

#### **Ford Announces Plans for Midwest Ethanol Corridor**

The Ford Motor Company, in partnership with renewable energy company VeraSun Energy, has announced plans to create a new Midwest Ethanol Corridor through Missouri and Illinois. The goal is to increase by one-third the availability of E85 fuel by converting about 40 existing gasoline fuel pumps to E85 in the two states. Ford will also work with Chicago to bring hybrid taxi cabs into service. [Read more...](#)



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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**Monterrey, Mexico**  
[Expo Manufactura](#)

**March 16 - 22, 2006**  
**Mexico City, Centro Banamex**  
[Mexico 2006 4th World Water Forum](#)

**March 17 - 28, 2006**  
[Governor's Trade Mission to Europe](#)

**April 6 - 7, 2006**  
[2006 Ex-Im Bank Annual Conference](#)

**April 9 - 12, 2006**  
[BIO 2006](#)

**April 23 - 26, 2006**  
[Philadelphia CoreNet](#)

## 2006 Governor's Economic Development Conference is on the Move



attend now.

Mark your calendars - we are moving! For the past several years, the Governor's Conference on Economic Development has been held in conjunction with the MEDC Spring Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. This year we are shaking things up a bit with an entirely different time of the year and an entirely different agenda. This year's conference will be held this fall, **September 25 - 27, at the Renaissance Grand in St. Louis**. More information and a Web link will follow in upcoming issues, but start making plans to



## Missouri Exports Set New Record in 2005



Exports by Missouri companies set a new record in 2005 of \$10.5 billion, beating the old mark from 2004 of \$9 billion in total global sales. Missouri's exports for 2005 were up by 16.28 percent compared to 2004 according to the World Institute for Strategic Economic Research (WISER). [Read more...](#)

## Economies of Missouri Metros Larger than Many Countries

Missouri's metropolitan areas make up approximately 77.7 percent of Missouri's \$203.3 billion economy and are even larger than the economies of some countries around the world. For example, the St. Louis MSA's \$102 billion economy is larger than the economies of countries like Hungary, Colombia and New Zealand. [Read more...](#)



### Beverly Strohmeyer to Lead Missouri Arts Council

DED Director Greg Steinhoff has named Beverly Strohmeyer as the new executive director of the Missouri Arts Council. Strohmeyer had been serving as interim executive director of the Missouri Arts Council since December 2004 and as assistant director for programs since June 1999. She will maintain her duties and responsibilities over the Arts Council's



### DWD to Build Awareness of State's Workforce System

DWD has established a new statewide marketing taskforce to build brand awareness of Missouri's workforce system. The taskforce is composed of state and local workforce practitioners who have experience and knowledge in marketing. They meet quarterly and are working toward developing training tools to help Career Center staff route/address responses to marketing



### Pro Energy Services Moving to Sedalia EEZ

Pro Energy Services will be the first company to take advantage of a tax abatement in the new Sedalia enhanced enterprise zone. The Atlanta-based company provides engineering, operation, maintenance and training services to electrical, chemical, petroleum and other energy providers and plans to employ 20 to 30 full-time workers. [Read more...](#)

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## DED PRESS RELEASES

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programs. [Read more...](#)

### **AmerenCDC Announces \$550,000 for Cape Girardeau Projects**

The board of directors of the Ameren Community Development Corporation has awarded \$550,000 in funding for three business and civic organization projects in southeastern Missouri. The Missouri Research Corporation will receive \$200,000 to redevelop the Innovation Center of Southeast Missouri State University into a business incubator; the Southeast Missouri Regional Port Authority in Scott Co. will receive \$200,000 for its public warehouse complex project; and the Cape Girardeau Public Schools Foundation/Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center will receive \$150,000 to expand its career center.

[Read more...](#)

### **Council Plaza Receives Brownfield Tax Credits**

DED approved up to \$1,631,094 in Brownfield Redevelopment Program remediation tax credits that will help remove environmental contaminants in the revitalization of the Council Plaza Redevelopment, which will be converted into a new mixed use facility expected to create 234 new jobs. The tax credits will help offset costs involved in the cleanup of asbestos and lead-based paint at the site. [Read more...](#)

projects; developing a marketing guide; evaluating our customer base to effectively tailor resources and messages; and developing a plan to effectively deploy the marketing program into certain markets. The taskforce will accomplish many other tasks as well, including the launch of the new GreatHires website later this year.

"In our marketing and outreach, we will need to stress the advantage Greathires.org will have over the competition, which includes career counselors, business reps and other professional staff that are associated with Missouri Career Centers," said DWD Director Rod Nunn. "I am open to new ideas to build a strong brand awareness among Missourians of these valuable services available to them."

### **Job Fairs Scheduled for Ford Hazelwood Workers**

Local Missouri Career Centers will join forces with The Ford Motor Company and the UAW Local 325 to host job fairs for workers that will be affected by upcoming layoffs at the Ford Assembly Plant in Hazelwood. One job fair will be held February 28 at the Ford Plant and another specifically for workers in the GEN pool will be held March 1 at Northwest Mall. Companies interested in hiring these individuals and/or participating in the job fairs should contact

### **Gov. Blunt, Kirksville Welcome Commercial Envelope**

Gov. Matt Blunt and the city of Kirksville recently praised Commercial Envelope Manufacturing Inc. in a special celebration to welcome the company and the 100 new jobs it will bring to the area. The family-owned company from Deer Park, N.Y. prints high-quality business envelopes and will locate in the former Standard Register building in Kirksville. [Read more...](#)

### **BMS Management Expands in St. Joseph**

St. Joseph-based BMS Management, Inc. is completing the purchase of the former Stetson Hat building and will expand their commercial warehousing, contract packaging, consultation and distribution services. Five million dollars will be invested in the building and equipment and the company plans to add 150 employees to their operations. [Read more...](#)

### **City of Cuba Receives Infrastructure Grant**

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved a \$120,000 industrial infrastructure grant through the Community Development Block Grant program for the city of Cuba. The funds will be used to build public infrastructure necessary to connect American Precision Die Casting's new facility to basic utility services. [Read more...](#)

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## GLOBAL NEWS

### Ex-Im Bank Offers Enhanced Support for Small Businesses



Ex-Im Bank is offering new tools that focus on helping small businesses. These tools include an interactive CD designed to assist the non-financial manager in finding trade finance solutions; a Small Business Help Button at the center of [Ex-Im Bank's home page](#) to direct exporters about where to e-mail or call for answers and counseling from local staff; a *Small Business Exporter Resource Guide* with active links to online government trade information; and discounted registration fees for two-day seminars in Washington D.C. The Ex-Im Bank is also making it easier for small business representatives to attend its annual conference. Small businesses attending the conference for the first time will receive a special 70% discount allowing them to attend the 2006 conference for \$150. The conference is April 6-7 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

[Read more...](#)

### FierceBiotech Names Top Five Emerging Biotech Regions

Many states and international regions are pouring resources into attracting biotechnology companies that will create high-paying jobs in high-tech industries.



*FierceBiotech*, an electronic publication that daily monitors the biotech industry, has ranked the top five regions that are willing to award cash incentives to create biotech clusters of the future and are helping existing company officials to grow their firms. The hot spots include California, Maryland and the I-270 Tech Corridor, New Jersey, the Singapore Biopolis and Wisconsin. [Read more...](#)

### Palm Beach County Offers BioScience Training



The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County held a Bioscience Boot Camp this week to educate businesses and the public on the basics of biotech. Topics included the basics of biotech, common types of research, time and costs involved with drug development and the success of biotech hubs. BDB spokeswoman Carla Brown Lucas said, "If you're going to deal with biotech, you need to know the lingo and be able to carry on a conversation with it." [Read more...](#)

### Maryland Groups Partner on Biotech Training Program

The University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and the Parenteral Drug Association are developing a training program to educate those wanting a job in biotech manufacturing. The partners will work together to develop and implement the program, which will train attendees about federal health standards involved in the manufacture of biotech drugs and other complex genetically-based health care products. [Read more...](#)



# FOCUS

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February 24, 2006

### HEADLINE NEWS

#### Legislative Update



In December, Gov. Matt Blunt and top Chrysler Group officials announced the automaker's plans to invest up to \$1 billion in the St. Louis North and South Assembly Plants in Fenton. At the time, state and local officials were working on an incentive package that helped trigger the company's decision. Part of the state's incentive package hinges on legislation that is currently on the fast track in the Missouri General Assembly. The bills contain changes that would enable the Fenton plants to qualify for the state's BUILD Program because of the jobs that will be retained due to the expansion. [SB 645](#) has already passed out of the Senate and has been sent to the House of Representatives. [HB 1521](#) has been voted out of House Committee.

#### Missouri's Affordable Housing Agency Earns AA+ Rating

The Missouri Housing Development Commission's strong administrative and management capabilities and its long and successful track record of providing affordable housing in Missouri has earned the agency an AA+ issue credit from Standard & Poor's in January. The report credits MHDC's high credit quality and low-risk asset base as one of the keys to the rating. It also specifically mentions the commission's strong and stable financial performance, high debt rating and minimal general obligation debt exposure. MHDC is only one of three housing finance agencies to achieve an 'AA+' rating, joining Virginia and Minnesota. West Virginia's housing finance agency has an 'AAA'. [Read More...](#)



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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 7 - 9, 2006**  
**Monterrey, Mexico**  
[Expo Manufactura](#)

**March 16 - 22, 2006**  
**Mexico City, Centro Banamex**  
[Mexico 2006 4th World Water Forum](#)

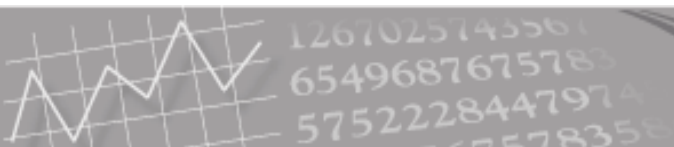
**March 17 - 28, 2006**  
[Governor's Trade Mission to Europe](#)

**April 5 - 6, 2006**  
[InvestMidwest](#)

**April 6 - 7, 2006**  
[2006 Ex-Im Bank Annual Conference](#)

**April 9 - 12, 2006**  
[BIO 2006](#)

**April 23 - 26, 2006**  
[Philadelphia CoreNet](#)



### Missouri New Business Formations Increase in 2005



New businesses bring industry diversity and job growth to a region and are a major engine for economic growth. MERIC's new business indicator shows that the number of new business formations in Missouri was 15,995 in 2005, up from 14,906 in 2004. [Read more...](#)

### Profiling Missouri Communities: Kirksville

With an estimated population of 17,057, Kirksville is Missouri's 16th largest city. Kirksville also serves as the county seat of Adair County and is home to Truman State University. Adair County's population is projected to decrease 7 percent by 2025, compared to the 9.2 percent growth projected for the state as a whole.

[Read more...](#)



#### FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

#### New Call Center in Farmington

The DED approved a \$500,000 industrial infrastructure grant through the CDBG program for the city of Farmington. The funds will be used along with local resources to acquire land, provide interior and exterior construction improvements and provide parking so that Accent Marketing Services, LLC can locate there. The new call center will create at least 103 new jobs and make a \$1.5 million private investment in the Farmington Industrial Park. [Read more...](#)

#### FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

#### State Releases More Job Training Funds

The DWD has released additional training grants this week through the Missouri Customized Training Program for fiscal year 2006. Funds will be used to pay for classroom training relating to industry and local needs for 634 new or existing employees at 11 Missouri companies. Since July, approximately \$6.5 million in state training assistance has been awarded to enhance the skills of more than 18,400 new or existing employees at 178 companies and four company consortiums. [Read more...](#)

#### FOCUS ON BUSINESS

#### Teva Merger Creates New Kansas City Subsidiary

Israel-based Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. recently acquired IVAX Corp. of Miami for \$7.4 billion, creating a new subsidiary, Teva Specialty Brands, which will be headquartered in Kansas City. The company has indicated that the city will serve as the North American hub for its branded business. Teva Pharmaceuticals is investing about \$100 million a year in branded research and development due to success with the drug Copaxone. [Read more...](#)

**April 30 - May 3, 2006**  
[National Business Incubation Association's 20th International Conference on Business Incubation](#)

### PAST ISSUES

[January 2006 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[December 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[November 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

### DED PRESS RELEASES

### QUICK LINKS

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[GreatHires.org](#)

[Missouri Training and Employment Council \(MTEC\)](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

### **EFCO Corporation to Expand, Create Jobs in Monett**

A \$650,000 industrial infrastructure grant was approved through the CDBG program for the city of Monett. The funds will be used for street improvements and the relocation of electrical lines to facilitate EFCO Corporation's expansion. The comprehensive state incentives package lead to the company's plan to invest more than \$2.1 million and create more than 100 new jobs as it expands local manufacturing operations.

[Read more...](#)

### **YOP Tax Credits for Two St. Louis Charitable Organizations**

The DED approved Youth Opportunity Program applications for two St. Louis area charitable organizations recently. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) will receive up to \$124,400 in YOP tax credits for its HEROES program, which provides violence and substance abuse reduction programs for six to 18-year-olds. Voices for Children will receive up to \$250,000 in YOP tax credits. The funds raised will help support key programmatic positions that are responsible for recruiting, training and mentoring volunteer child advocates who go to court on behalf of abused or neglected children in St. Louis City who have been removed from their family home.

### **Meramec Regional Job Fair Set for March 14**

The Missouri Employers Committee (MEC), Rolla Career Center, Meramec Manufacturing Council and Rolla Technical Institute/Center will host a job fair for workers affected by unemployment in Phelps, Crawford, Maries and Dent Counties. The third annual Meramec Regional Job Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, at the Villa Event Center on Martin Springs Drive in Rolla. Companies interested in participating in this job fair should contact Nancy Montgomery, HR director for Tacony Manufacturing, at (573) 265-0500, Ext. 110 or e-mail:

[Nancy Montgomery](#)

### **Spotlight on Missouri Employer Committee** The [Missouri Employer Committee](#) (MEC) is

composed of a broad spectrum of employers from both large and small businesses. Local committees involving nearly 3,000 employers work with the DWD, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and local partners to encourage services are tailored to the needs of employers, provide low-cost educational seminars relating to business issues, and keep employers current on employment law and workforce programs. For more information, contact your local Career Center or email [mec@ded.mo.gov](mailto:mec@ded.mo.gov).

### **Saint Luke's Research Listed in Top 10 by American Heart Association**

The American Heart Association recently named a research study done in Missouri to their top-10 list of scientific advances for 2005. The study, led by Dr. John Spertus, was conducted by Saint Luke's Mid American Heart Institute in Kansas City and colleagues at Washington University in St. Louis on the use of beta-blocker medications. The study was funded partly by a \$16 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. [Read more...](#)

### **State Grant Supports Rural Information Technology Program in Macon**

A \$156,660 state CDBG grant awarded to Macon County will help fund renovations at the Macon Area Vocational Technical School to accommodate its new rural information technology program. Once completed, the classrooms will provide new technology, computer labs and lecture centers. The project will focus on providing new employment opportunities for workers who have been laid off or are underemployed or unemployed and is expected to serve as a pilot for other rural technology zones. Funds will also be provided through the DWD for the purchase of IT equipment. At least 30 individuals are expected to be trained as Microsoft-

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)

**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Questions or Comments?**  
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Certified Application  
Developers in the first  
year. [Read more...](#)

## GLOBAL NEWS

### North Carolina Loan Program Designed to Lure Biotech Companies



The N.C. Biotechnology Center has developed a loan program to help bridge the gap in financing often seen by struggling biotech entrepreneurs. The new Strategic Growth Award loan program will match up to \$250,000 in loan money that biotech companies secure from angel networks or venture capitalists. It is hoped that the program will send a signal to biotech companies that North Carolina is serious about the biotech industry. [Read more...](#)

### Nebraska Offers "Marketplace for Entrepreneurs"

Nebraska's Center for Rural Affairs, along with several partners, will host an event called "Marketplace for Entrepreneurs," which is based on the belief that small towns must look within for economic development and to expand their local economies. Patterned after a similar North Dakota initiative, the program will help connect participants to public and private resources that can aid in their business plans. [Read more...](#)



### South Carolina to Develop World Trade Park



South Carolina State University and the South Carolina World Trade Center have approved a preliminary agreement to develop a \$400 million World Trade Park and Education Research Center (WT-PERC). The project includes an education, training, research and business development center, an outlet mall and retail business center to house entrepreneurial efforts of students, a product distribution center for imports and exports through the World Trade Park, and a logistics transportation center linked to the proposed James E. Clyburn Transportation Research and Conference Center. [Read more...](#)